

BRIEFING SHEET

Vermiculite Products, 3025 Maxroy Street, Houston, Harris County, TX

The Vermiculite Products Inc facility has been in operation since 1941. According to an EPA database compiled from W.R. Grace shipping invoices, 213,750 tons of vermiculite ore from the Libby mine were shipped to this site between January 1967 and November 1986, making it the #1 site by volume. The facility is in a mixed residential/industrial area with some older single family housing stock and some newer townhomes.

In December 2013 EPA visited the Site and met with the property owner and the facility operator and secured access to perform an assessment at the Site. During the December 17, 2013 Site visit EPA observed that redevelopment is happening at a rapid pace, effecting properties adjacent to the Site where air deposition (or contaminated fill) might have occurred. Emphasis was put on investigating off site properties designated for sampling.

EPA was notified on December 20, 2013 that soil disturbing redevelopment activities had been initiated at 3028 Maxroy Street, the property immediately adjacent to the Site. The EPA contacted the property owner, explained the concerns regarding disturbing potentially asbestos contaminated soil and was granted access to sample.

EPA collected samples from three on soil piles on the property as well as collecting nine surface and three subsurface soil samples from the property. Sample analytical results indicate asbestos levels of 0.25% in the largest soil stockpile and trace levels of Libby amphibole asbestos (greater than zero but less than 0.25%) in another stockpile. In addition two surface soil samples showed trace amounts of Libby amphibole asbestos.

At least two of the stockpiles require disposal as asbestos contaminated soil. It is recommended that the third stockpile also be treated as contaminated. EPA is taking steps to perform expedited activity-based sampling at the property. Soil piles need to be removed prior to this effort. Additionally, EPA has also taken steps to locate and request access from additional off-site properties requiring investigation.